Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Results Women's Rights & Gender Equality 2014

Dutch investment: €49 million

Impact

- ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS
- LEADERSHIP & POLITICAL POWER
- PEACE & SECURITY
- ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Outcome

481 policy and legal reforms

6,155 laws and regulations **to remove barriers** to women as economic actors

Output

Over 149,500 women with **improved leadership skills**

More than 30,000 women trained to participate in processes **to shape the future** of their countries

At least 2,850 **health and law enforcement personnel** trained

3,270 organisations with stronger capacity for **advocacy**

Access to productive resources **land, water, credit, technology,** provided to more than 20,000 women

91 organisations better equipped to deal with **violence against women**

Stronger promotion of women's role in **peace and reconstruction activities** by 132 organisations

More than 142,000 women and girls, men and boys reached with **awareness training and life skills education**

Almost 500,000 women producers and wage workers **helped to raise their income**



Input

- FLOW
- NAP 1325
- Women on the Frontline
- Human Rights Fund
- MFS

Diplomacy efforts to promote women's rights worldwide

Results Women's Rights & Gender Equality 2014

The context

Nearly 20 years ago, the world came together in Beijing for the Fourth World Conference on Women to adopt a road map towards gender equality, women's empowerment and human rights for women and girls. Much has been achieved since, but much more needs to be done. Progress has been slow and uneven. Globally, the majority of the 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty are women, and millions of women and girls are victims of physical and sexual violence or other forms of discrimination. Women are still largely excluded from processes to resolve conflicts and to shape the future of societies.

Alarmingly, resistance to equal rights for women, in particular their right to decide about their sexuality and whether or not to have children, is growing among conservative forces. The ideal of equality enshrined in international agreements has to be continuously defended. The Netherlands seeks to help create a world in which men and women have equal rights and opportunities. The world will make no progress if half its population suffers discrimination. The energy and talents of women and girls are needed to ensure lasting peace and prosperity for all. The Netherlands' commitment to improving the position of women is encapsulated in the following four goals:

- the elimination of violence against women and girls;
- equal participation in politics and government;
- economic empowerment and self-reliance;
- a fair share in peacebuilding and reconstruction.

The instruments

The Netherlands pursues these goals through a three-track approach.

First, we allocate financial resources to women's rights organisations through the grant scheme Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women (FLOW), in support of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

Second, we work to ensure that women benefit from investments in trade and development cooperation, for instance in subsistence and market-oriented agriculture, drinking water and sanitation, renewable energy and business development.

Diplomatic work is the third dimension of the Netherlands' efforts to promote women's rights worldwide. As a UN member state, we work towards consensus among nations on norms and measures to achieve gender equality and ensure governments' compliance with universally agreed principles. We also advocate for observance of women's rights with our development cooperation and trading partners, governments, corporations and civil society.

Results

Elimination of violence against women and girls

The Fair Wear Foundation, supported by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, works to stop harassment and violence against women workers in garment factories in Bangladesh and India. Over 3,500 workers in 24 factories received training in 2014, while 15,000 workers were reached via peer-to-peer education. Representatives of workers, management and NGOs took part in 20 active anti-harassment committees, which recorded an increase in reporting of harassment. Participating in these committees as workers' representatives has made women more confident, and an increasing number of them have been promoted to supervisory roles since the project started.

Equal participation in politics and government

UNDP activities helped increased women's representation in the Senate of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2014, from 8 to 26%. In Senegal, UNDP helped increase women's representation in local councils from 15% in 2009 to 48% in 2014.

Economic empowerment and self-reliance

Action Aid, a FLOW grantee, is dedicated to food security and female leadership. In Rwanda and Ghana the organisation helped 5,400 women improve their agricultural practices. In Rwanda 75% of the beneficiaries now have two meals per day. There are now 180 female group leaders and advocates for sustainable agriculture, water and child care.

A fair share in peacebuilding and reconstruction

Women on the Frontline, a programme initiated by the Dutch government, is designed to enhance women's participation in political processes in the MENA region. It is strengthening the capacity of 28 organisations in Syria, Iraq, Bahrein, Yemen, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. Especially now that extremist and fundamentalist groups are gaining influence and political repression is mounting, women's voices need to be heard by those in power. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security demands that women be included in both analysing conflicts and negotiating solutions. Women on the Frontline helped create the UNSCR 1325 Alliance in Iraq, which now consists of 25 Iraqi and Kurdish CSOs. In 2014, the Alliance started discussions with the governments in both Erbil and Baghdad.

Challenges

Measurement and reporting of results in women's rights and gender equality remain weak in many organisations. Sound monitoring and accountability systems will be a requirement in future grant arrangements.

Thanks to FLOW, the Netherlands is now the largest supporter of women's rights organisations in the world. Lasting change requires substantial, long-term commitments by donors and a wider range of stakeholders, including recipient governments and corporations. The Netherlands will continue to advocate for more engagement on their part.